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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, **DC** 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

June 27, 2012

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ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients Acting Director Office of Management and Budget Eisenhower Executive Office Building Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Zients:

As you are aware, the Budget Control Act of 2011 requires that over a trillion dollars in automatic cuts, known as sequestration, take effect in January 2013, barring a new agreement between Congress and the White House on deficit reduction. Although the House has passed a measure that would achieve the necessary deficit reduction to avoid sequestration for a year – encompassing both defense and non-defense accounts – the Senate has failed to consider any similar measure and the President has threatened to veto the House proposed solution. Given the apparent impasse, it is appropriate to provide information to members of Congress, industry, and the public about the Administration's interpretation of the law and how sequestration would be implemented mechanically. At a minimum, this information is critical for planning, and perhaps the additional insight into the realities of sequestration will incentivize all parties to offer alternative deficit reduction plans. I was pleased to note the statement by your spokesperson earlier this week that indicated your staff was conducting the analysis necessary to implement sequester if need be.

Therefore, you are invited to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on Sequestration: Implementation Options and the Effects on National Defense on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at 10:00 AM in room 2118 of the Rayburn House Office Building. Kindly please respond to this invitation by Monday, July 9, 2012. I believe this hearing could not be timelier, as industry is already preparing to take actions in anticipation of sequestration. We have requested that industry representatives testify about these actions at a subsequent panel on the same date.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 80 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building the morning of Monday, July 16, 2012. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients June 27, 2012 Page 2

witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to Lauren Hauhn at Lauren. Hauhn@mail.house.gov.

I appreciate your consideration of this invitation and look forward to your testimony. Should there be any questions, please contact Jack Schuler on the committee staff at (202) 225-1977 or at Jack.Schuler@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon

Chairman

HPM:js